

TITLE: Treatment of vascular dementia: a
comprehensive review

AUTHOR(S): Lee, Jae-Hong

CORPORATE SOURCE: Department of Neurology, Asan Medical Center,
University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, S.
Korea

SOURCE: Taehan Sin'gyong Kwahak Hoechi (2003), 21(5), 445-454
CODEN: TSKHC2; ISSN: 1225-7044

PUBLISHER: Korean Neurological Association

DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal; General Review

LANGUAGE: Korean

AB A review. Vascular dementia is the second most common cause of
dementia in the elderly after Alzheimer's disease. At
present, there are only very limited data that might support either the
prevention or the treatment of vascular dementia,
despite a long history of attempts. Heterogeneity of vascular
dementia complicated the study of treatment and its diagnostic
paradigm based on Alzheimer's disease made it impossible
to identify cases early enough to prevent the development of
dementia. A new concept, vascular cognitive impairment, has been
proposed to underscore the importance of early identification and
treatment of vascular dementia. Prevention involves
the control of putative vascular risk factors (i.e. hypertension,
diabetes, cardiac arrhythmias, smoking, hyperlipidemia) and the promotion
of potential protective factors. Primary and secondary prevention
of stroke and cardiovascular disease decreases the burden of vascular
dementia. Targets for the treatment of vascular dementia
include (1) improvement of core symptoms (cognition, executive function,
and behavior), (2) improvement of secondary factors affecting cognition
(depression, anxiety, agitation), (3) slowing the progression of vascular
dementia. Cholinesterase inhibitors used for Alzheimer
's disease are also useful in vascular dementia, awaiting to be
accepted as the first-line treatment for vascular dementia.